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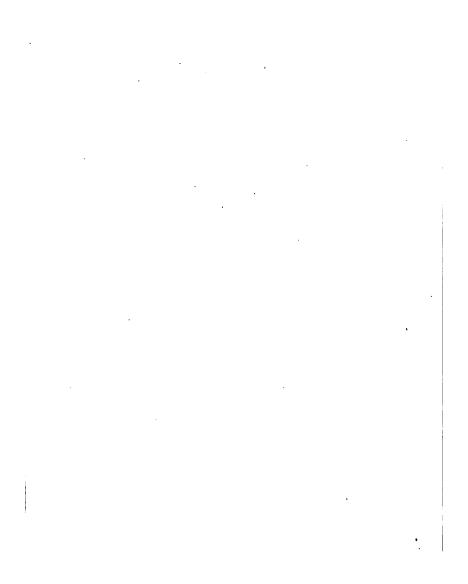
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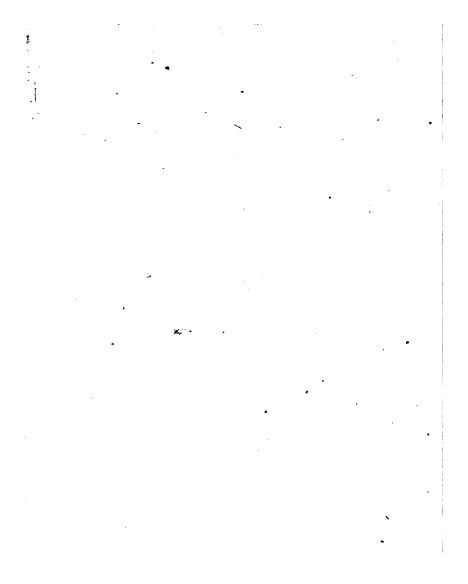
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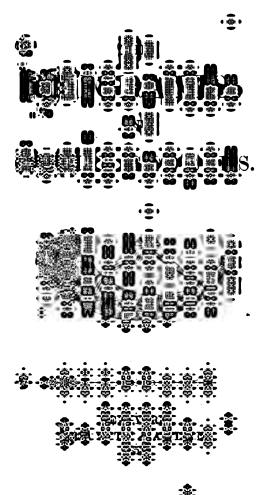
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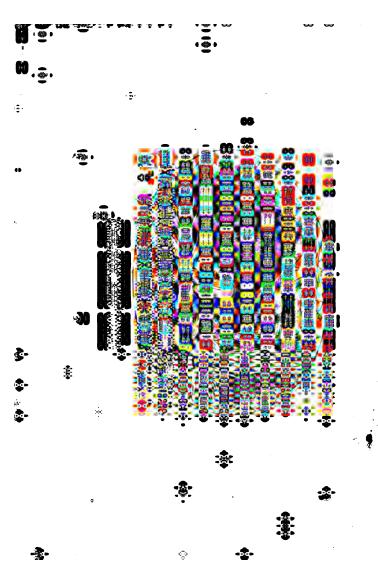
in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, in and for the Eastern District of New York.

STORIES.

THE EMIGRANTS.

Some years ago, a party of emigrants, consisting of three families, each of six persons, started from St. Louis for the wilderness of Minnesota. They had three large wagons, a number of cattle and all the provisions and tools for settling in a new country. For the first two days their road led over broad prairies where not a tree was to be seen. The grass was high, and in some places, the emigrants had to

search for the road, although other wagons had passed along but a short time before. There are many such vast prairies in the west. About sunset on the second day, our party of emigrants reached a beautiful grove of trees near a small stream. Here they resolved to encamp for the night. The horses were taken from the shafts of the wagons, and left to graze near the cattle. Fires were kindled, supper cooked, and then as the moon arose, the weary emigrants prepared for the night's repose. At the four ends of a square, blazing fires were kindled, to scare away such wolves as might be lurking about. Within this square the three wagons were drawn, and placed in a triangular way in the centre. Then the horses and cattle were drawn

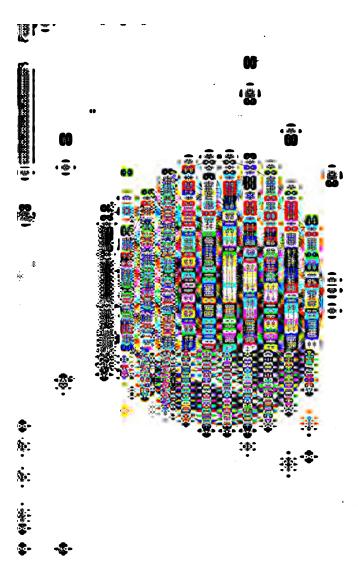


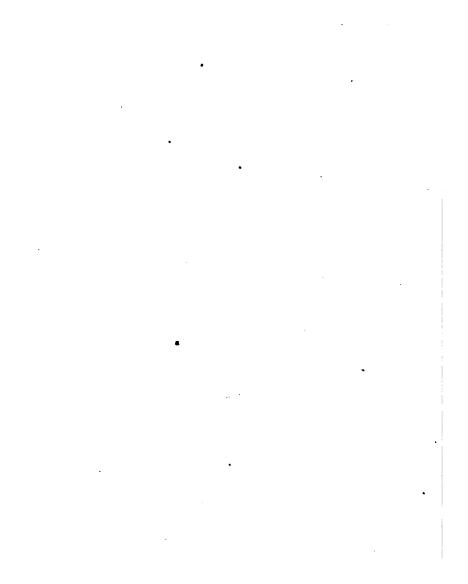
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around the wagons and tied. It was arranged that one of the three men should watch for a few hours, and then awaken another one to take his place, so that there would be a guard throughout the night. The party then sought repose in the wagons. The howling of the wolves was heard near the camp soon afterwards; but as a good watch was kept, none of these animals ventured to get within the square. The guard deemed every thing perfectly safe. About eleven o'clock, a scream was heard at the back of one of the wagons. The guard rushed to that place, and there saw a large wolf dragging a boy by the shoulder, who had been severely bitten. Next day the party arrived where they intended to settle.

THE CONCERT OF BIRDS.

ONE summer day, I wandered to a shady wood, and reclined upon the green moss, under a huge oak. The day was very warm, but the cool shade under the tree was delightful. While I reclined there, I heard a very sweet concert. Four or five birds of different species were perched upon the branches of the oak. The voices were not alike but perfectly in concord. Sometimes a bird with a full, clear warble would commence, and after he had sang a sweet prelude, another and another (10)

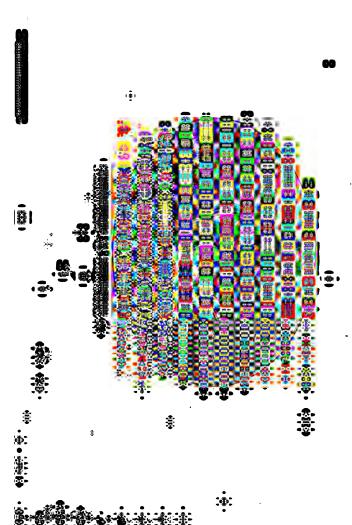




would join, until there was a grand swell of harmony such as I had never before heard; finally the music would die away until it became the song of a single little bird. I was so charmed, that I could have remained beneath that oak all day. How cheerful the birds seemed. Each one sang as if it was happy that God had given it life; and I thought that the Almighty Creator had given to the earth most beautiful songsters, to sing his praise in chorus.

THE SHIPWRECK.

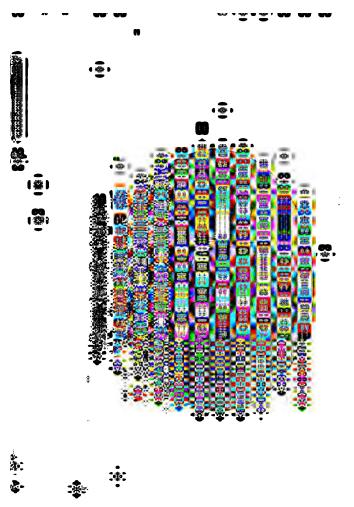
The ship Brooklyn was a noble vessel. She sailed from New York for the Mediterranean Sea. After she had been out of port for several days, all on board being in high spirits, a gale sprang up, and by degrees increased to the fury of a hurricane. The ship was driven about and tossed on the great waves. Her spars were broken, and one mast fell over the side. Night came on, and a storm with thunder and lightning, struck terror into all on board of the Brooklyn. There were

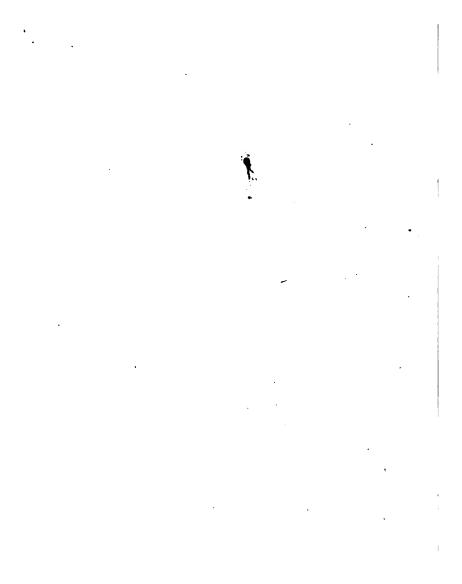


• . brave men among the crew, men who had passed through many a storm. But the Brooklyn was a new ship and no one was certain that she would be able to withstand the fury of the waves. All the masts were torn away, the rudder became useless; and the ship lay a wreck, at the mercy of the sea. Happily, before any lives were lost, the storm abated. Other masts were then constructed; the rudder repaired and the ship steered back to the port from which she sailed. The crew were happy on account of the narrow escape from death which they had made.

THE NAVIES OF THE ANCIENT GREEKS.

In ancient times Greece was divided into many states, the chief of which were Athens and Sparta. Athens, Corinth, and some other maritime states, possessed powerful navies. By means of her great fleets of war-ships, Athens acquired wealth and power. A large number of cities were forced to acknowledge her supremacy and pay tribute. The war-ships of the ancient Greeks were not much larger than our sloops. They were so (18)





built as to be propelled by both oars and The largest vessels were called triremes, and had three banks of oars. These ships had strong bows, and the heads of various birds and beasts carved in brass, were often placed on them. When two hostile fleets met, the vessels were run against each other with great force. When neither vessel sunk from the shock, the warriors on board fought hand-to-hand, in the same manner as if they had been on land. The seamen of Athens were very skilful in guiding their vessels against those of the enemy, so as to give fatal blows.

THE EXPRESS RIDER.

On account of the number of rail roads and telegraphs, express riders are seldom employed now. Some time ago, these riders were employed to convey all important news from one part of the country to another. Good horses were then in greater demand than now. Express riding is very exhausting to man and beast. When very important news is to be conveyed, the express rider gets a handsome reward for his severe labor, but in general the profits of this business do not pay for



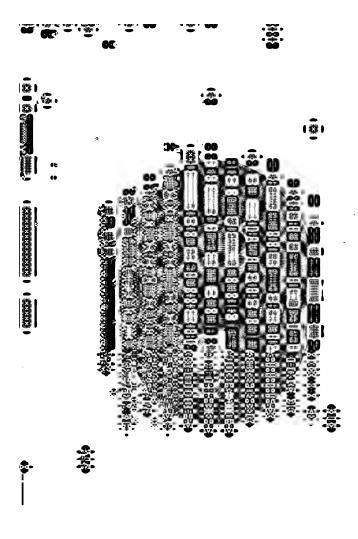
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the sacrifice of natural rest. Sometimes these riders meet with terrible accidents; and these are to be dreaded most while riding swiftly at night, along roads where there are but few lights. Should the horse stumble while at full speed, the rider must be thrown and severely injured. We should be thankful for the invention of telegraphs, which enable us to send news hundreds and even thousands of miles without danger or trouble to man or beast. In some parts of the United States there are still regular express riders to carry news that cannot be delayed for the stage.

THE SCOTTISH FUGITIVES.

Many years ago, there was great trouble in Scotland. A number of the people wanted Charles Edward Stuart, the descendant of their old Scottish king, to reign over them instead of George II., who was then king of all Great Britain. Many noblemen were among this party. Charles Edward landed in Scotland, and was soon at the head of a large army. At first he was successful. He defeated the army sent against him by King George, in two bloody battles. He even advanced as far

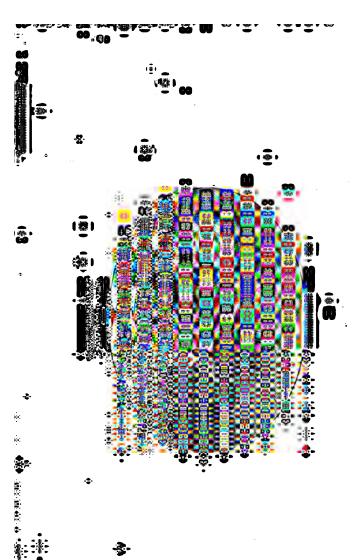


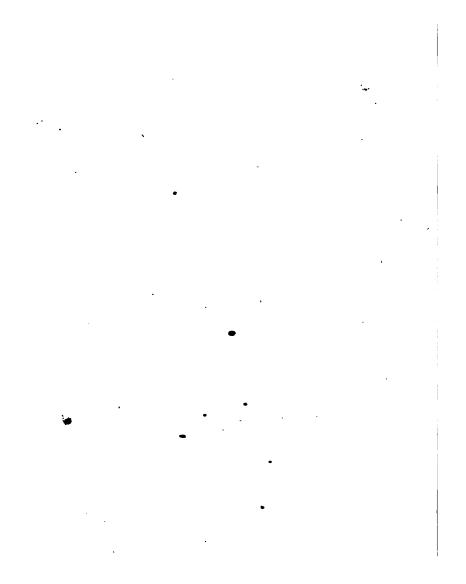


as the borders of England. The road to London was open. But Charles Edward delayed his march, and in the meantime King George equipped a powerful army; and gave the command of it to the Duke of Cumberland. The army of Charles Edward was defeated and dispersed. Charles Edward wandered a long time among the Highlands and then sailed for France. Some of his noble followers were captured and put to death for treason. Others escaped to the wildest portions of the Highlands. Some ladies fled with their husbands, and wandered with them for many months among the rocky regions. Some of these ladies journeyed on horseback others were compelled to travel on foot.

MY RABBITS.

I have a large number of rabbits. Some are entirely white, with red or pink eyes. Others are spotted with black or brown, I bought a pair of white ones, and a pair of spotted ones; and as rabbits breed very fast, I soon found that I had more rabbits than I could feed and protect. I had a long box made, somewhat like the coop in which chickens are sent to market, but much larger than any coop of that kind I ever saw. The palings on the front of the box were wide enough (30)

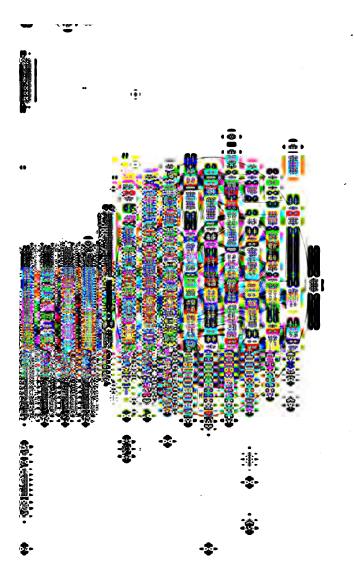


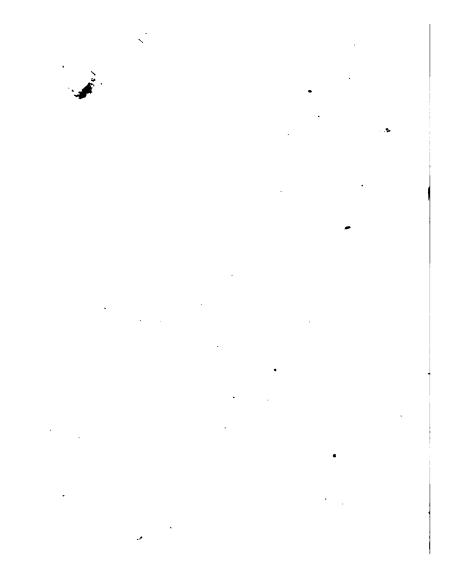


to let the rabbits have light and air, and yet not admit the paw of a cat. This box was placed in front of the garden, on a wooden stand three feet high. Every morning, I went to see my rabbits, to give them food and clean their box. The little animals were very playful and did not seem to be afraid of me. When I thought the box was too full for comfort, I sold a number of the rabbits. These pets amuse me very much in my leisure hours.

THE KNIFE GRINDER.

OLD Timothy earns his living by sharpening knives and scissors. He has a large machine which he can wheel about the streets. When he finds a customer, he sets his barrow down, puts his wheel in rapid motion by means of a treddle. He then applies the knife or scissors to the whirling stone, the sparks fly and in a few moments, he will give you the knife with a fine edge. Sometimes, he repairs scissors by putting new rivets in them and gives them a bright polish. Old (34)

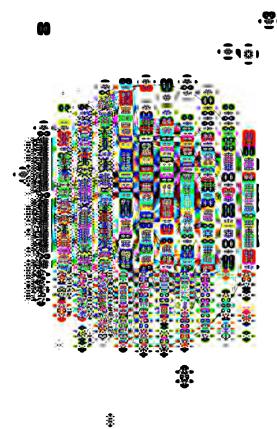




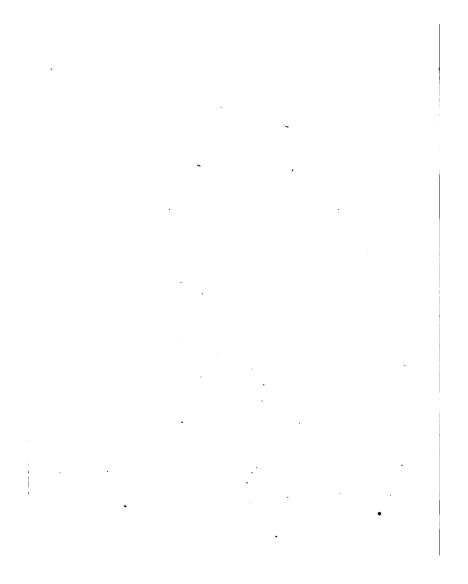
Timothy looks ragged and dirty; and you might suppose that he is very poor. But he has constant employment and contrives to get so many sixpences during the day that he receives better weekly payment than most regular mechanics. He has a good home where his family is well-provided, contented and happy. Old Timothy hopes that he will be able in a few years to give up this wandering business, set up a small store and live more at his ease. He is a sober, steady man and deserves to prosper.

HUNTING THE NYL-GHAU.

The Nyl-Ghau is found in the interior of South Africa. It is somewhat like the common stag, but much larger. The body, horns and tail resemble those of a bull; it is in the head, neck and legs that we find the likeness to the deer. The color, in general, is ash, or gray. The height of the back is about four feet. The horns are of a triangular shape, and often seven inches in length. The Nyl-Ghau eats oats and is fond of grass and hay. It is vicious and fierce in the rutting season, (38)



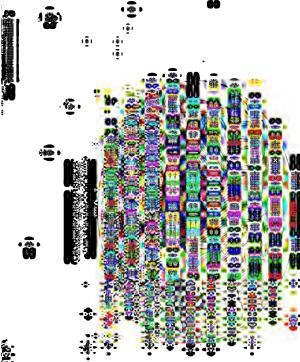
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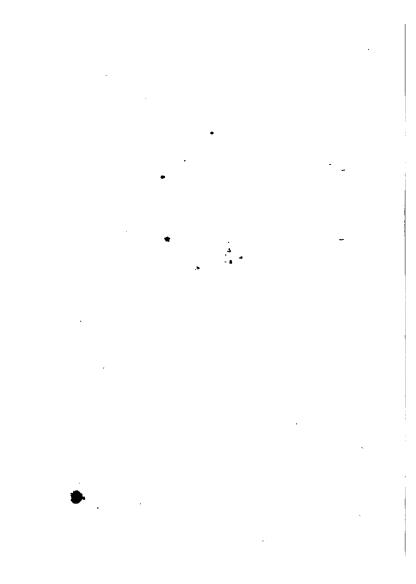


but at other times tame and gentle. female has no horns and looks more like the deer than the male. The young Nyl-Ghau is like the fawn. In South Africa. the natives frequently engage in hunting the Nyl-Ghau. Armed only with a short spear, called an assagia, an African will venture to attack the largest Nyl-Ghau he can find in a herd. If he is a skilful hunter, he will slay the animal with a single stroke behind the shoulder. If the Nyl-Ghau is only slightly wounded, it will boldly rush upon the hunter, and he must be swift and active or he will be gored to death.

THE MAD BULL.

ONE day, a mad bull broke out of a pen on a farm just outside of New York. He ran into the city, pursuing many people, and frightening many more almost out of their senses. Down through some small streets the furious beast ran till it reached Broadway, the great thoroughfare of New York. The pavements were crowded with people, some walking for pleasure and others hurrying along on business. The bellowing of the bull gave the alarm and there was a general flight. Some



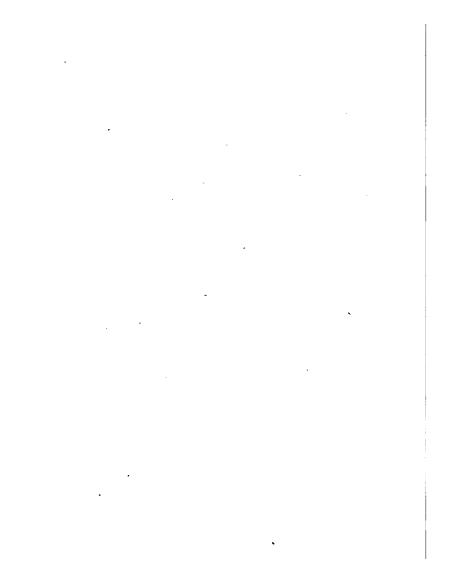


sought safety in the stores. Others fled along the cross streets. The bull selected a boy as the particular object of his rage. He chased the boy for some time, caught him, tossed him in the air, and gored him terribly in the breast. He then ran into a dry-goods store, being more enraged at the sight of some red stuffs there, forced the salesmen to jump upon high shelves, overturned and tore bundles of the finest goods, and then ran into the street again. There he was shot by a brave fellow, who coolly stood in front and shot him to the heart.

THE STREET PAVERS.

Have you ever seen men paving the streets of the city. In some places where square blocks of stone are used, paving is very difficult. Where the common round pebbles are laid the work is heavy and wearisome, but it does not call for the exercise of much skill. The street is first graded to the desired level, laborers being employed to dig down or fill up as may be necessary. The street is then spread with gravel, in which the stones are laid. A few men start ahead and place the (46)



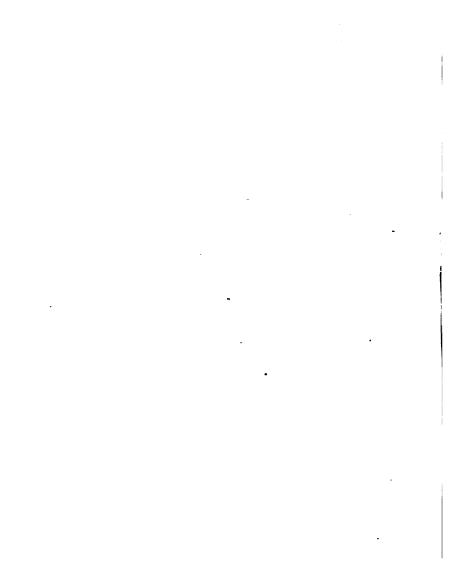


stones in their proper places. Others follow and using a very heavy tool, made of wood, and shod with iron, drive the stones tightly down. In this way the pavers proceed until the whole street is paved. Streets paved with round pebbles are dry, but rough; and when carts and carriages drive over them, a great noise is made. Smooth, square blocks are much superior; but their cost is so great that none but the wealthiest cities can afford them. Paving with wooden blocks has been tried; but the blocks did not endure for a sufficient time.

THE MOTHER'S DEATH.

MRS. GARDEN was a widow. She had lost her husband when her children were still mere infants; and by hard labor and constant care, she had raised those children to be honest and respectable members of society. She was struck with palsy and rendered completely helpless. Then her children, William and Susan, showed that they were grateful for her toils on their behalf. During a whole year they worked for her support, paid the doctor's heavy charges and supplied all her wants.

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Never did children display more affection for a parent. At length, Mrs. Garden felt that her last hour was approaching. She only wishes to live for the sake of her children. She knew that they would lead virtuous lives, for she had taught them to pursue the way of the righteous. But it pained her to leave them. However, the widow was resigned to the will of God. About sunset, one day, during which the children had watched by the bedside almost constantly, Mrs. Garden breathed her last. William and Susan scarcely knew that she was dead, so gently did her spirit pass away. They wept for a long while, and then prayed that God would give them strength to live so as to be worthy of such a mother.

THE SHIPPING AT NEW YORK.

New York is the largest city upon the continent of America, and one of the largest ports in the world. There you may see vessels, from all commercial countries, of all sizes, and of many varieties of construction. There are the great steamships that run between New York and Liverpool, and others built for the California trade. These steamships are the swiftest ever built. Some of them have run from Liverpool to New York in less than ten days. Along the wharves

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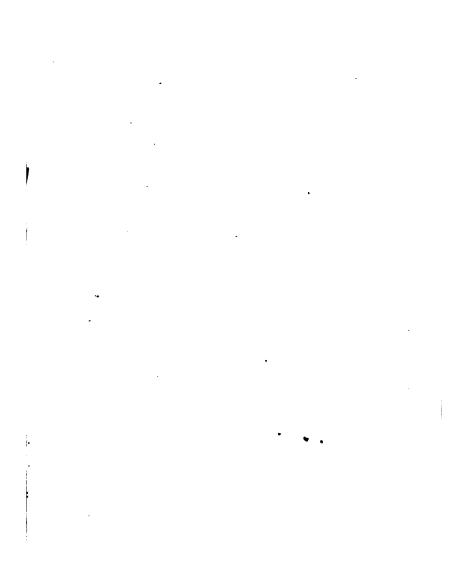
on the East River there is such a crowd of vessels that their masts and rigging will almost prevent you from seeing the houses from the river. The bustle and hurry of loading and unloading these vessels will surprise even those persons who reside in other large commercial cities. A vast amount of business is here transacted. Every man seems resolved to go ahead as fast as he can. On the other side of the city, you may see the beautiful steamboats that run upon the Hudson river and Long Island Sound. Some of these boats are over three hundred feet long. They are furnished in the most gorgeous style and their cabins look like parlors in palaces.

THE YOUNG SHEPHERD.

Roger is only ten years old. But he can tend his father's sheep on the hill, as well as if he was a man. He is very careful to keep them out of the corn and grain fields. Roger has a good dog, named Shoot, who aids him in keeping other dogs from worrying the sheep. Roger can read, and he often takes books with him when he goes to take care of the sheep, so that he will not grow weary of being alone. He makes pets of the little lambs and frisks about with them.

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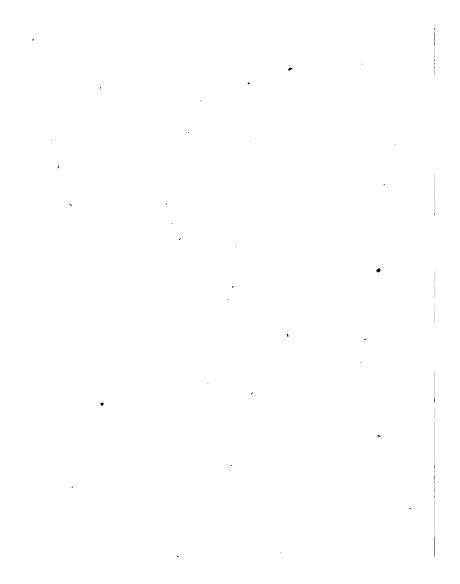
THE BUTCHER'S CATTLE.

THE BUTCHER'S CATTLE.

A BUTCHER named Barney Williams had a lot back of his house, in which he kept a large number of cattle. As soon as he had killed about one half the number, he bought others. In this way, he always had a fine lot of cattle in his lot. The butcher was a cruel, brutal man. His business had so hardened his heart that he delighted to torture the cattle before he killed them. Sometimes, he would break off one of a bullock's horns, and thus make the poor beast bellow with pain. The (63)

neighbors complained of the numerous display of his brutality; but though he was often fined, he stubbornly continued his cruel practices. At length he met with that reward which his neighbors often said he deserved. One day he went into the lot, in a brutal mood, and began to beat a huge bull with the handle of his axe. The beast was enraged and strove to gore him. Barney jumped aside and cut the bull in the shoulder with his axe. But the beast rushed on him and gored him to death. Never be cruel to dumb animals.





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